

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJ: DENKTASH ON RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS

REF: NICOSIA 0165

1. IN JANUARY 19 STATEMENT TO TURKISH NEWS AGENCY, TURK CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH ANNOUNCED THAT RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN VIENNA ON FEBRUARY 17 WAS "SUITABLE" BUT THAT "IT WAS STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT THE TURKISH SIDE WOULD ATTEND THE TALKS." NOTING THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH ASSURANCES HE HAD RECEIVED REGARDING A BAN ON ENOSIS AND CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL GUARANTEES, DENKTASH SAID QUESTION OF EQUALITY AND STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATORS REMAINED TO BE SETTLED BEFORE TALKS COULD BE RESUMED. DENKTASH EXPRESSED HOPE THAT A MORE DEFINITE ANSWER REGARDING THE TALKS' RESUMPTION COULD BE GIVEN SOON AND SAID HE BELIEVED THE ISSUE OF EQUALITY WILL BE SOLVED IN CONSULTATION WITH RUKEY.

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2. ASKED ABOUT RECENT FLURRY OVER GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR CLERIDES' RESIGNATION, DENKTASH SAID HE DID NOT KNOW DLERIDES' EXACT STATUS AND NOTED THAT CENTRAL QUESTION WAS WHAT CLERIDES' AUTHORITY AND INSTRUCTIONS WERE. "IF HE COMES (SIMPLY) TO OBTAIN SUBSTANTIAL TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS, TO DISCUSS CANTONS, AND TO PROPOSE A PROPORTIONAL CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, WE SHALL THEN UNDERSTAND THAT HIS AUTHORITY HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED AND THAT HE HAS LOST HIS CAPABILITY AS A NEGOTIATOR."

3. ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATING TEAM WOULD BE ENLARGED, DENKTASH SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH CLERIDES IN VIENNA IS IRRELEVANT. "THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH COMMUNITY SIT AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. OTHERWISE, THE TALKS WILL BE TURNED INTO A CYPRUS CONFERENCE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF (UN SYG) WALDHEIM. THIS COULD BE A SHREWD MOVE BY MAKARIOS, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY INADMISSIBLE FOR US."

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING UN, DENKTASH HAS STILL NOT SET THE MEETING WITH UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE PEREZ DE CUELLAR OF WHICH HE SPOKE TO US LATE LAST WEEK (PARA 4 REFTEL). TFSC "MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS" CHELIK HAS INFORMED UN THAT SOME MATTERS REMAIN TO BE CLEARED UP BEFORE DENKTASH FORMALLY CONVEYS HIS ACCEPTANCE OF WALDHEIM'S PROPOSAL. CHELIK HOPED MEETING COULD TAKE PLACE IN A DAY OR TWO.

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